TAMESIDE EYE

No 12 Feb/March '80 15p

SPOT THE FREE ENTERPRISE

Answer on page 11

VICTORY AT ADAMSONS

WHO IS THE SIXTH MAN?

CASTLE MILL FOR SALE

COMPLEX ISSUE

BR: TUNNEL VISION!

TAMESIDE EYE IS

- INDEPENDENT.
- HARD-HITTING.
- NON-PROFIT-MAKING.

EYE

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meetings

WEDS. 8.30pm GREYHOUND, BURLINGTON ST. ASHTON. Phone 1st

ad-rates

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This issue layed out despite sparking chairs

NEWS, INFORMATION, GOSSIP?

A pupil at West Hill (Boys) school, Stalybridge, walked on a prohibited area of the school grounds, the 'quadrangle'. For this he was punished. He received one stroke of the cane. The bruising and pain were so bad that he had to visit his doctor the following morning.
This, and other similar incidents have been reported to the EYE, and are seen as a 'normal' part of school life at West Hill. The teachers who inflict this violence on their pupils use a wide range of implements, ranging from rubber pipingto the slipper to a variety of canes.
Do ALL the canings and beatings get entered into the punishment book? Did a West Hill teacher really break a pupil's thumb ?

★☆★

Notice is hereby given that there will be a Police Demonstration on Weds.6th Feb 1980 in Tameside.
PLACE - Buckton Quarry, Carrbrook, Mossley.
SLOGAN - One man, one gun!
IN ATTENDANCE - Tameside Planning Committee.
AIM - To show to Tameside residents the enormous benefits of having 2 police pistol ranges and 1 police rifle range in our Borough and to show what a mess police will make of the existing buildings at the quarry.
MORE INFORMATION - See planning application 79/03/0 08486.

★☆★

Regulars at Broadbottom pubs have been having problems travelling to and from their evening tipple thanks to the bus cuts.
Recently they complained to EYE that the evening bus service between Mottram and Broadbottom has been cut down so severely that they cannot get to their local After 7pm there are only two buses each way between Mottram and Broadbottom on the 393 route. One Broadbottom Landlord questioned GMT's thinking behind these cuts saying 'What's the point of a massive 'Don't drink and drive' campaign at Christmas if they go and cut the buses ?'
Tom Pendry, M.P. lives in Broadbottom and is known to like an occasional pint. Perhaps if he had to rely on the buses, the service would n't be half as bad!

DID HE FALL OR WAS HE PUSHED ?

From our news behind the news dept.
Parents and staff at Longendale Comprehensive School will already have remarked at the speed of the departure of Alan Brignall, Headmaster just before Christmas.
Described as 'voluntary early retirement' in the Rip-snorter, Eye has been given reason to wonder exactly how 'voluntary' the Head's move was.
Apparently, Education Dept. officials have been going round Tameside's schools checking that each school does not have more teachers than it is meant to have.
Rumours that headmasters have been 'fixing' their school roll (register of pupils) in order to keep teachers on have been around for some time now.
When the official had inspected Longendale Comp. it was decreed they were one teacher over-staffed. Teachers were asked if they would mind being re-deployed to another school in Tameside : no-one came forward. A short time later the Head solved the problem by taking 'voluntary early retirement.'
This move will actually save Education a lot of cash. It seems likely the Comp. will have no head until Sept.
Coupled with no repairs (e.g. ceiling tiles are falling off) and replacement of broken down equipment, the cuts are already beginning to affect Longendale Comprehensive.

★☆★

HOT LINE

tel. 366 0382

Like most senior citizens those living at Sunnyside Old Persons home in Droylsden enjoy a good sing-song. Every Tuesday a pianist, paid for by Tameside, comes around in the afternoon to accompany the get-together and a good time is had by all.
Until now, that is. It seems our new Labour council, in line with the cuts demanded by Tory central Government are worried by the expense of old peoples enjoyment. They are starting a 'club' and demand that the old people in all Tameside homes pay a pound to join. The money will go to pay the pianist. After rent and keep have been deducted from their pensions the old people at Sunnyside have £4.50 left for pocket money. Part of this will now have to go to pay for the 'privilege' of being able to sing.

Readers may recall the recent fire at the Mulberry St. office of Tameside Social Services. A few weeks ago local foster parents were pleased to see the old huts being decorated and put back into shape again. Two weeks later, on a return visit, they were somewhat puzzled to see the same rooms being decorated over again.
Was this not going a little far enquired one parent? Apparently not, was the reply from the busy decorators. You see, the last lot was from the insurance claim and this is 'planned' maintainance! Which all sounds like the 'planning' which prevents the Education Dept. from financing school transport for mentally handicapped children on short stay fostering to those same parents. Seems there's no money available in this year's estimates. Perhaps they should take out some insurance.....

★☆★

The search to find a new number two at Social Services goes on. And on.
After a series of good applicants were turned away recently by Tom Foster, Director of Social Services, the Personnel Dept. must be searching round for new ways to get the post filled. The Tameside Eye Bright Ideas section has been in full session on this poser for a week: their conclusion is printed here, free of charge. Simply put the following on all the adverts for the job: "ONLY YES MEN/WOMEN NEED APPLY"

SUNNYSIDE DROYLSDEN

BLANDFORD ST GABLE

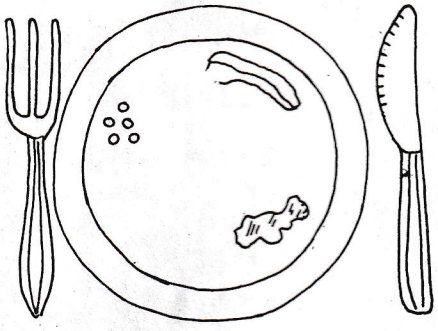
If you live next to the end of a terrace in an Improvement area and are considering getting a grant it might be well worth checking on what's going on next door. When a section of a terrace is beyond improvement and is pulled down it is the Council's responsibility to rebuild the outer skin to the gable end which is left. Whereas the Area Improvement Team recommend the Compulsoty Purchase and demolition of the unfit house it is left to Building services to let a contract for the demolition and rebuilding.
It seems however, that Building Services have been leaving long periods in some cases between getting the adjoining houses demolished and the new outer wall built. In the intervening time a lot of damage can be done which is a bit demoralising if you've just had an Improvment Grant on your own house. Ask Mr Ullah on Blandford St, Ashton, he's been waiting some time.....

★☆★

Watch out Hattersley! The cavalry are coming.
After a year of column inch after column inch on the Ripsnorter's front page, Hyde Civic Society has emerged with a new constitution and new energies. However, desperate for something to sink their teeth into, they are now asking around for work to do.
EYE has discovered they have been making approaches to see if there is 'anything they can do for Hattersley'

(How about openingup a workhouse? - ED)

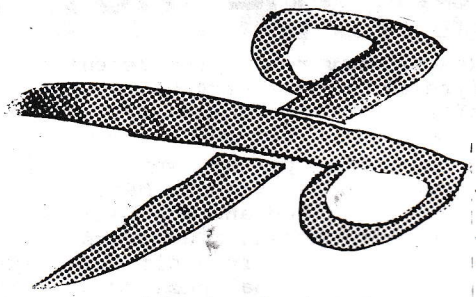
★☆★



Greater Manchester Council has slammed Tameside's meals on wheels scheme for serving up the Boroughs older population with poor meals.
As a parting shot, the retiring Director of the GMC's Consumer Services Dept. D.W. Johnson, has slipped a few goodies into his annual report ('78-'79)
On page 77 he tells of the findings of his public analyst and laboratory:-
"A selection of meals from Tameside kitchens producing foods for the meals on wheels service were analysed to assess their nutritional value. It covered 32 two-course meals and a wide variation in nutritive quality was found.'
The report went on to say that the meals protein content ranged from 9 to 40 grammes per meal, whilst the total energy content ranged from 255 to 875 K cals.
As a result, the Borough's Medical Officer has been given 'guidelines' on how to get it right.

★☆★

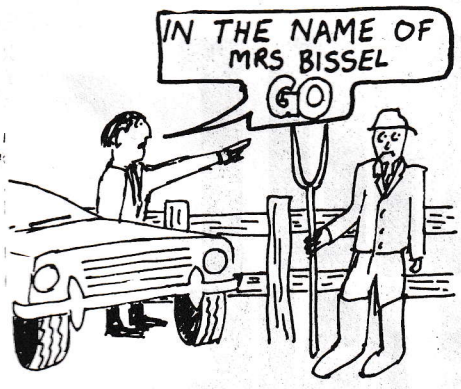
Chairman of Education Committee, Cllr. Roy Oldham has pledged that the level of 2040 teachers will be maintained by Tameside Education. Yet before Xmas there were 2072 teachers employed by the Borough. It seems that 'natural' wastage and non-renewal of Temporary Contracts will see 32 of these teachers job-less.



EYE was able to check out at least two teachers who have been having their 'temporary' contracts renewed for the last 18 months at the end of every term They must now be wondering if their contracts will be renewed at the end of this school term. Meanwhile, all the teachers trade union hierarchy say that teachers are doing very well under Labour. In fact, the Tameside Association of the National Union of Teachers have just had 10,000 leaflet supporting Comprehensive Education printed.
But, some teachers are worried about the lack of repairs and maintainance in the schools. And, about the new five day wait before a supply teacher can be called in when a teacher goes off sick.

★☆★

Tameside Community Involvement Council (TCIC) have just sacked their Resident-Housekeeper, Sheila Burnett, from the Heathfield hostel which they run for ex-probation young men. But TCIC have now got an unfair dismissal claim lodged against them by her. The reason she was sacked seems unclear, but it is not unconnected with ex-councillor Mrs. Hadfield's son in law.



Knowing the right people is obviously part and parcel of the building trade, and one local property tycoon, Roland Bardsley, seems to know more than others.

For Bardsley put forward his planning application to turn Carriages into a Motel exactly one week before the official Whitehall announcement that the Blue Route had been selected for the Motorway through Ashton Moss.

Interesting to note that Bernard Higginbottom, one of the partners at Cordingley's Estate Agents, put in his application at the same time for permission to build houses on Benny Lane Farm, on the Moss. He is acting on behalf of the 'Trustees of Mrs. Bissell', and if he's successful, the tenant farmer at Benny Lane, Bernard Jones, will have to leave.

Bardsley and Higginbottom are no doubt wishing their own Party was still in power, for they are both members of the Tory faithful. Still, if these applications are put through, they should keep a few builders in work and Bardsley's profits healthy for some time to come.

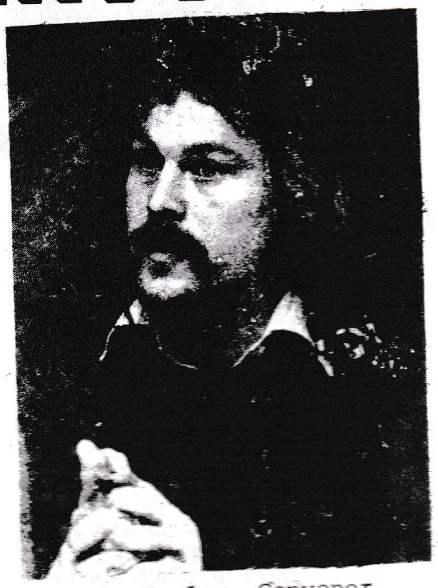
I. C. L.'s PARK ROAD MILL DUKINFIELD SITE

MUCK & BRASS

VICTORY AT ADAMSONS

The workers at Adamsons Containers, Reddish have won. After striking since 28th August last year to prevent all but one of their shop stewards from being sacked as part of the ACROW subsidiaries 'redundancy' plans they returned on 21st Jan Although the threat to the shop stewards organisation has been lifted some 130 workers have left voluntarily during the dispute, which is more than double the 45 which ACROW wanted to see go. Management are now saying that the order book is virtuall empty, but if trade picks up those who are left will be given first refusal on 'new' jobs.

The dispute was a long and bitter affair. Although they had official union backing little or no solidarity industrial action was taken by other ACROW plants such as Adamsons Containers in Dukinfield. Help was limited to financial support only.



John Taylor, Convenor.

Two years ago Adamsons was a non union shop, now 180 workers have taken on the might of a multi-national and won. As convenor John Taylor put it. 'There is a lesson here for certain people in our movement - leave it to the rank and file to decide, not to inquiries over which they have no control'.

Could there be a lesson here for ICL ?

CASTLE MILL FOR SALE ?

Rio Tinto Zinc (RTZ), for the past year, proud owners of Sterling, are rumoured to be trying to sell off their Thermoplastics Div. So the story goes, the profit forecasts for this division which is based at Castle Mill, Stalybridge, are not good. Mr. Mills, Managing Director at Castle Mill, said he was 'surprised' to hear this and told EYE 'As far as I know, we have not been sold.' Deep in the heart of St. James's Sq, London, RTZ's Press office were unable to confirm or deny the rumour. RTZ, who are now represented on the Sterling board, have appointed oneof their own people as Finance Manager at Castle Mill. No doubt this Manager will have been drawing up profit forecasts. If they are as bad as EYE has been led to believe, the workforce at Castle Mill could be facing a second change of ownership in two years.

MORE STERLING NEWS:

Sterling have rarely been out of the news recently what with the closure of Albion Mill and the proposed transfer to Whitelands. However, Queen Mill never ceases to intrude on the lives of Dukinfield residents.

The latest series of complaints has been about their noisy steam-cleaning of equipment, always after midnight and on one occasion as late as 2.45 am. Rumours that they intend to expand steam-cleaning operations to provide Dukinfield with its own early-morning alarm call service are to be ignored.

I.C. HELL AT DUKINFIELD

At the time of going to press it is uncertain what the factory will vote to do. One the one hand the company have reaffirmed their decision to close the plant and are refusing a meeting between the main board Directors and the local union officials. On the other, the workforce are somewhat demoralized after three months of uncertainty and worry about their futures.

Despite a lack of co-operation from management the unions produced a report outlining an alternative to closure of Dukinfield.

The Management's latest argument for closure was that the advent of the silicon chip and automated production technologies would reduce the workload in making computers. The alternative the unions stressed was that with very high growth rates (20% plus) in the computer market, an aggressive marketing approach and manufacture under license would more than compensate for the reduced labour content of silicon chip technology. This, of course, supposed that none of the workload got exported to South Africa or elsewhere.

The company rejected the report, but in doing so gave information that strengthened the union claim that closure was unnecessary and shortsighted.

If the company were correct it would go against the current establishment views that the silicon chip won't lose jobs. If employment levels cannot be maintained in a high growth industry, what chance is there for the majority of industries in Tameside which are moving into recession.

If ICL Dukinfield should close then it will be a big blow for workers in the area, particularly the semi-skilled, and much more effort will be required to keep unemployment down and provide work at a decent rate of pay.

In view of the increasingly difficult economic situation Tameside Trades Council have called a meeting on unemployment in the area on Weds.13th Feb at AUEW offices in Margaret St. at 8.00 pm.

6 RECREATION GRINDS THE AXE

In January about 40 people from all over the North West, including three from Tameside met in Oldham Community Centre to discuss the expenditure cuts and how they would affect kids play provision. It was pointed out that the cuts were likely to hit play hard! One of the first acts of the Tory Govt. had been to axe a large chunk off the STEP job creation scheme. The Step scheme in Tameside was shut down last July, throwing many talented play leaders out of jobs and leaving many hundreds of kids with no organised play facilities, other than the already run down fixed apparatus playgrounds.

cuts

As always in local Govt. cuts, play is the first to go. In Macclesfield the entire Leisure Dept. has been closed down. Maintenance of swings and roundabouts is being cut and in some areas broken play equipment is being dug up and taken away rather than being repaired.

fight

In West Lancs the play budget has been cut by 30%. Salford has lost one third of their budget last year and expect another 5% to be axed this year. Three main points emerged from the discussion in Oldham.
Firstly, the better quality play schemes were surviving, secondly the evidence from the fights to keep play budgets in Oxfordshire and Islington (London) had shown that organised protests work and, thirdly, that Labour controlled Boroughs are making more and heavier cuts than the Tories.

A Merseyside playworker pointed out that perhaps this was because it was traditional Labour policy to maintain school education at all costs and to give children the ever elusive 'Equal opportunities' and play wasn't considered by them as important. Tameside's situation certainly bears this out.
It can be said that there will be no improvement in the Tameside play areas. The budget under review for '80-81 is only £9,000 up on the '79-80 figure of £3,456,000. Allowing for inflation this figure represents a decrease. This will obviously affect Recreations chances of appointing a full time play worker. At the moment a worker is employed for 6 months to co-ordinate the summer playschemes, and although Recreation have approved the position to be made permanent it now looks as if there will be no money to pay the AP3 salary.

dangerous

The whole question of 'planned maintenance' is also in jeopardy in Tameside. This maintenance is carried out on play-equipment on a regular basis and follows a fixed pattern. However, if an extra fitter cannot be employed this service will doubtless be affected. At present play equipment is still being inspected on a day to day basis. This should not be taken literally, but means that equipment is being examined on a rota system it does not guarantee tha the work will be done the same day but that any ma inery found to be danger is being isolated from us this does not rule out th possibility of dangerous equipment remaining so fo a week or more.

close

Councillors on the Recreat ion Services Committee fee that due to the 'no growth budget now being considere many playgrounds could clo if they become badly damag ed and left unrepaired. C such playground is at Lancaster Rd. In Haughton Gre Denton.

action

It looks as if anv future playschemes run in Tamesid will have to be organised on a voluntary basis, the play council meets on 6th Feb. to discuss ways in which these provisions can be neared. Meanwhile, the 'no growth' status quo looks like being with us for a long time to come, especially if play provis ion stays firmly entrench edin the grip of Recreation Dept. It remains to be seen whether or not the grass will grow faster on the playgrounds of Tameside or on the bowling greens. Hopefully there will be a day of action fo play on May 5th. More details from Tony Chilton, North West Playing Fields Assoc., 57 Parkgate Rd. Chester. Tel: 0244 372261

INTERNATIONAL STORES —

Remember the fuss over whether International Stores should pay any rent, and if so, how much, when they occupy the new ground floor superstore at the Ashton complex? An EYE investigation reveals the real question should have been: can International afford the rent at all ?

loss

Or, last year they made a thumping LOSS! In the 1st six months of 1979 they lost £2.15 millions on a turnover of £314 millions. And, their owners, the huge multinational company British - American Tobacco (BAT) say that these losses are likely to continue for some time. In fact they do not expect International Stores to make them a profit until 1985.

defer

So, why are I.S. investing in new stores when they are in the red? One of the reasons is that they are able to defer taxation payments to the Government, by making new investments made profits of £432 million on a turnover of £5,405 mill. But, with things as they and promising to pay the tax they owe on previous years profits at a later date. In effect, this amounts to an interest-free loan from the Govt. Meanwhile, the Govt.has to borrow from another source to pay its bills.

takeover

Some of their 'investments' dont make much sense at first glance. During last summer they took over Mac Markets, who themselves are in the red. The reason for this is simply that SIZE is very important for profits in the food industry. This deal makes International the fourth largest food retailer in the country, bigger even that Fine Fare with their Hyde Hypermarket.

trade

BAT have no worries about going in the red, however, In 1978 through trading operations all over the world, including Argentina, Rhodesia, Sth.Africa, they are at International, it seems unlikely that shoppers are about to get cheaper food bills.

COMPLEX ISSUES

FOLLOWING THE MAY ELECTIONS THE NEW LABOUR COUNCIL INHERITED THE CIVIC COMPLEX SCHEME FROM THE TORIES - THE CONTRACTS FOR CONSTRUCTION WERE RUSHED THROUGH IN THE WEEKS BEFORE THE ELECTION. BUT THE IDEA FOR A CIVIC COMPLEX HAS BEEN AROUND SINCE 1973 BEFORE TAMESIDE TOOK CONTROL - TAMESIDE EYE LOOKS AT THE HISTORY OF THE COMPLEX SCHEME.

In October 1973, before Tameside came into power they wrote to the Town Clerks in Ashton, Audenshaw, Denton, Droylsden, Dukinfield, Hyde, Longendale, Mossley and Stalybridge asking if their Borough owned land which could be used for a civic complex for the new Metropolitan council. Dukinfield offered the land behind their Town Hall, Longendale suggested the site of Mottram Old Hall, Ashton offered three possible sites which included the site being used behind the Town Hall, and Mossley said they had several sites suitable for the administrative complex.

problems

Meanwhile, Spiers the Chief Executive took Tameside's problems to the Department of the Environment - he emphasised the shortcomings of using existing Town Halls but the D.O.E. said Tameside problems were not unique and did not merit special consideration.
Next a short list of eight developers was made and they were asked to submit a brief report in which they would choose the most suitable site and briefly out - line how they would develop it.

replied

Only three of the chosen developers replied ; Partington Construction Group of Oldham, French Kier Development Company and Maxwell Allan Properties of Wigan.
The Dukinfield site, they all agreed was well suited to development, especially as Dukinfield is at the geographical centre of Tameside, but for commercial reasons they all chose the Asthon site, not one of them mentioned the Mossley sites.

CONT P10

tunnel vision

What lies behind British Rail's plan to close the railway over woodhead? Their statement to rail staff, in B.R. House Journal 'Railnews' has been strongly challenged by the Unions who have exposed it as a mess of half truths, evasions and misleading information.

Even more interesting, who stand to gain from the closure?

B.R.'s reasons are quoted below, with the response from NUR and ASLEF journals.'

Ironically, the Rail news article embarrassed B.R., it blew the story too soon. London Management made frantic attempts to recall the paper, but outside the south were too late to stop it.

surplus

"Although Hebden Bridge Diggle and Hope Valley lines all have surplus capacity, Woodhead with only 39 trains a day, has a capacity for an extra 81.

Add to this the fact that other routes carry passengers while Woodhead has none over its main length, augment the argument with studies that show there is no chance of winning more business, and the writing is firmly on the wall for the closure of the Woodhead route."

*Local sources say the number of daily trains is closer to 50.

*Woodhead lost its passenger service in 1970: SO THAT THE LINE COULD BE DEVELOPED AS THE MAIN TRANS-PENNINE FREIGHT ROUTE - said B.R. at the time. It has been recalled that the same excuse was earlier used to end passenger services on the former Gt. Central London link. That line has now closed.

Closure of goods-only routes do not need clearance from a local Transport Users committee.

*Woodhead is still the only trans Pennine route capable of handling 8'6" containers now coming into use. "Railnews" does not comment on this traffic.

*Railmen claim that much potential Woodhead traffic including containers from Hull and bulk steel from Sheffield to rail-served destinations in Manchester, travels by road. Two years ago, six Hull-Liverpool freightliners over Woodhead were cancelled, that traffic now goes by road. Eddie Wright of Glossop Trades Council has commented - 'There is evidence of lack of interest by B.R. in gaining business from firms in Glossop and Tameside areas.'

'Main traffic over Woodhead is bulk coal for Cheshire's Fiddler's Ferry Power Station.. . coal will be available west of the Pennines to serve Fiddlers.'

*Much of the coal mined in Lancs is said to be unsuitable for Fiddlers due to a high chlorine content.

'With its outdated 1500 vlt. DC system and the need to change locomotives..the costs of this inefficient working and the many millions of pounds it would cost to convert to the modern 25000 volt AC system, all show that retention of the route is not justified.'

*1500v.DC is the system to be used on the Paris-Lyon Belfast-Dublin, and Tyneside Metro electrifications.

B.R.'s report does not compare the cost of converting a non-electrified Woodhead with the cost of converting a non-electrified route with its tighter clearances. The published 'options' for electrification include the Hope Valley line with two long tunnels.

leaks

'If Woodhead's 15¾ mile central section, including the 3mile 66 yd. Woodhead tunnel, was retained... it would cost B.R. almost £14½ million in maintainance over the next 10 years and the loco fleet would have to be refurbished in that time.

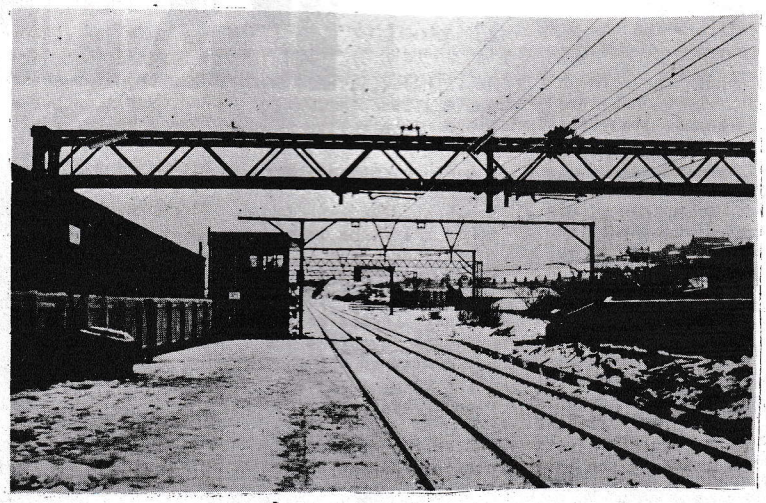
Closure will bring savings of £2½ million in materials alone, more than enough to pay for improvements needed on other routes to carry present Woodhead traffic.

Add to that the scrap value of 45 30-year old electric locomotives, shorter journey times for merry-go-rounds the end of the yearly £500,000 electricity bill, improved train and crew working, and the justification to close is overwhelming.'

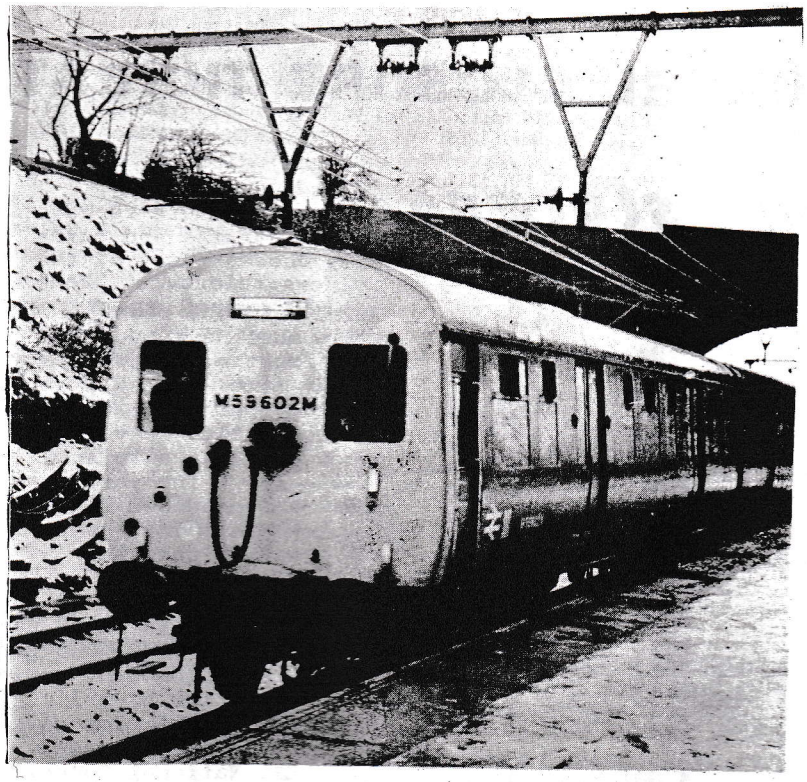
*The B.R. statement does NOT mention the maintenance costs of other trans-Pennine lines.

According to railway men, Totley tunnel on the Hope Valley 'leaks thousands of gallons of water a day' and is the main reason for regular winter Sunday diversions, every year since 1973, of Manchester - Sheffield passenger service via Woodhead; whose tunnel, oddly in view of BR's words above, is 25 years old, concrete lined and electrically lit throughout.

And, is not thought to cause major maintenance difficulties.



at BR



relaid

*In the last 5 years the threatened section has been relaid with continuous welded rail, at a cost of £100,000 per mile (the rival Hope Valley line does not have a continuous welded rail.)
At a stroke increasing BR's maintenance cost AND the value of recoverable materials. B.R. does NOT mention that this track would not have to be renewed for 15 years.

*The scrap value of the existing electric locos is £225,000 by B.R.'s own figures. B.R. do NOT mention the cost of replacement diesels; assuming the BR budget for new motive power can allow for the 10-20 units needed At a price of around £100,000 EACH.
*Railnews talks of ending the £500,000 electricity bill, but says nothing of the bill for diesel for the replacement services. Their internal report quoted this as £341,000 (wiping out 70% of the saving) But the cost of diesel is rapidly rising- by 50% since Feb. 1979.

support

'Greater Manchester PTE is likely to continue to support the electric suburban trains into Manchester from Hadfield and Glossop.'
*Greater Manchester PTE is under no obligation to support the section beyond Broadbottom, including two lengthy viaducts. Secondly, Railnews did NOT say that GMC would have to take on the WHOLE COST of Manchester-Hadfield; the level of support needed would rise by 'between £300,000 and £500,000 per annum.'

overhead

Finally, B.R. claim the cost of converting Woodhead to 25 KV AC, at £24 million would be excessive. That figure includes the cost of resignalling, which would have to be done anyway.

No undue problems have been found in the past converting 1500v to 25KV - even using existing structures. And B.R. do NOT mention the cost of electrifying the Hope Valley Line (say £200 mill?)

history

Woodhead's recent history is revealing. 1949 - electrifications starts. 1954 - Woodhead tunnel completed, through electric service to Sheffield begins.

1955 - B.R. opt for 25KV, putting Woodhead out of step with the rest. 1964- B.R. try (unsuccessfully) to end the Hadfield/Glossop passenger service.
1966-(Sept) B.R. deny plans to end the express passenger service over Woodhead.
1967 - (Jan) B.R. post withdrawal notices for the express passenger service.
Late 1960's - first proposals for a Manchester-Sheffield motorway via Woodhead, to run above or close beside the railway for much of its length.
1970 (Jan) Passenger service ends after a 5 year battle.
Early 1970's - public inquiry for the Hyde - by-Pass,
1975 - public inquiry for Denton By-Pass.
1976 - First press reports of possible closure of Woodhead.
1976-M/cr.-Sheffield motorway officially 'shelved'.
1978 - Hyde by-Pass opened.
The Hyde By-Pass, allegedly built to serve a local need, carries so little traffic that it has become something of a scandal. But, an extension the Denton By-pass is now well under way.
Over the Pennines, Penistone too, has a By-pass.
Although the through motorway is 'shelved' Back-door tactics of producing an M-way by linkingup such 'isolated' stretches are not unknown. And present construction would leave only the trans-Pennine section to have just that.
The through route went during a period of spending cuts, part of the reason was insufficient through freight on that route to justify it. But in the last two years, proposals have been made to either close or restrict to vihicles under 3 tons, one of the existing M/cr -Sheffield roads the A57. Diverting all through goods on to the A628, over Woodhead which is (like the A57) often closed by winter snows.
Making the case for a motorway, or at least massive improvements in the A628

conversion

Closure of the railway would enable the track bed to be used as the basis - not the whole width- of a motorway, drastically cutting construction costs in the tight pass beyond Dunford bridge. And costs would be cut even more if Woodhead tunnel was available for one lane.
A new fan ventilation system has recently been installed in the tunnel, ostensibly for the benefit of electricity board engineers, who use the old Woodhead tunnel for cable ducts.

Page 10

10 TUNNEL CLOSURE THREAT

FROM PAGE NINE

Pump storage

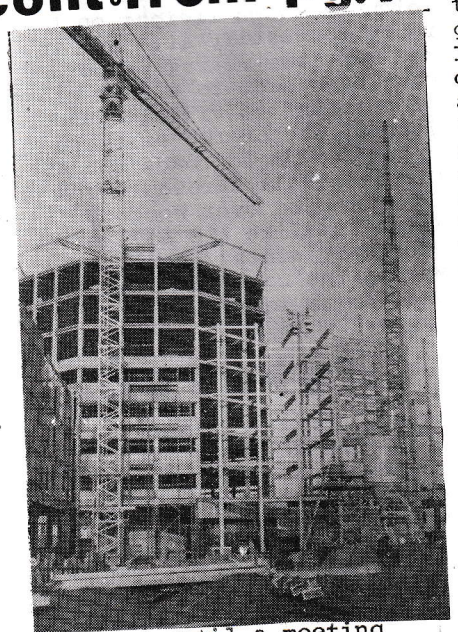
Apart from the road possibilities, the Longendale valley is the suggested site for the C.E.G.B. 'pump storage' scheme. Which, it has been calculated, would raise the level of Valehouse and Thodeswood reservoirs to near, or above, the railway. Locals point out that the scheme was not mentioned until AFTER first rumours of closure had appeared.
The emergence of an action group opposed to the closure has it seems produced a dramatic B.R. response. B.R. have now prepared a slick and expensive tape & video show, AND thousands of copies of a glossy brochure in 5 colours, all to tell people WHY WOODHEAD MUST CLOSE.
Estimated cost of B.R.'s exercise, to convince public and press of the need to save money by closing Woodhead is'between six and ten thousand pounds.'
And, was described by action group member Paul White as 'as far as I know, unique'

The B.R. brochure repeats all the half-truths and carefully chosen facts of the Railnews report. As Paul White told our reporter. 'This must have been the most frustrating two years of our life - it's like banging your head against a brick wall. We've produced figures to show it's barmy - the rail unions have produced figures to show its barmy - yet still we get the same stock answer.'

A meeting held in the House of Lords on 22/1/80 chaired by Viscount Sidmouth, decided to press for a Public Inquiry into the closure. The meeting was attended by ASLEF, National Council for Inland Transport, NUR, Glossop and Hadfield Trades Council, Alan Mackay MP, Spencer Le Marchant MP.

Thanks to Mike Don of City Enquirer for this article. Anyone wanting to join the fight against the closure contact: Eddie Wright, at Hadfield Station or on Glossop 2168.

COMPLEX
cont.from pg.7



It was not until a meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee on Tuesday 3rd October 1978 that the plans for the civic complex were made public (previous committee meetings dealing with this subject were held 'behind closed doors').
We were told that Property Trust Ltd. were the chosen developers for the £11 million complex of which Tameside would contribute £4 m. Having sunk £4 million into the complex, Tameside wanted the maximum revenue from the ground floor superstore - International Stores offer of £297,500 was eagerly accepted; The Co-op's 'derisory' offer stood no chance. Unfortunately a clause in the contract signed with I.S. stated that if the multi storey car park was not built they would pay no rent for the first year and only half rent in subsequent years.

In August this year Greater Manchester Council pulled out of their commitment to finance the new multi-storey car park.
So now it seems as if I.S. will get the new superstore in its prime trading position rent free whilst the Co-op, who demanded no such guarantees, try to attract shoppers to the deserted West End of Stamford St.
The final contracts for the construction complex were rushed through by the Tory council before the May elections.
The new Labour council inherited both the complex scheme and the International Stores agreement with the car park clause.

NARACC

ON A DOWNER

Some Tameside Youth Workers have been approached by a charity of dubious integrity. One, Nick Cooper, leader at Hattersley Youth Club, sent off for more details, but never heard from the charity since.

A new charity in the drugs and alcohol field - the National Association for Research and Action in Community Care (NARACC) - has succeeded in worrying other established similar organisations.

Its methods of establishing 'credibility' include the tactic of recruiting some right-sounding names to the NARACC cause. These names then go out on NARACC publicity, aiming to convince others to add their names as well - a sort of snow-ball effect.

MONTY PYTHON

Last August members of the Monty Python team agreed to become joint presidents of NARACC, with a view to helping to make educational films for the organisation. They withdrew this support in the Autumn, and by that time oht other 'names' on NARACC lists started to complain they had never been consulted.

The final blow came in Telford Shropshire, where two local youth leaders, Brian Stock and Russell Sherry, had been made honorary board members of NARACC by simply filling in a form. The local paper, the Telford Journal, blew the whistle on the whole sham:"All you had to do was tick the right box and send the letter back. It was a poor man's version of buying peerages."

SUPPORTERS

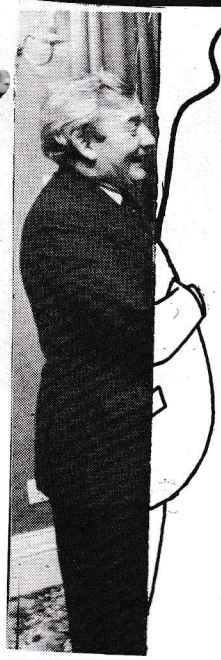
Nick Cooper, and other Youth Workers, would do well to see if their names are now going out as'supporters' on the NARACC's publicity.
(Thanks to Voluntary Action)

FILM REVIEW

MANHATTAN

This is Woody Allen's latest film, showing in the centre of Manchester now, and it's in the same vein - but better - than 'Annie Hall'. The plot is as usual rather silly, It concerns a TV scriptwriter, Woody Allen trying to write a novel about New York, his 17 year old girl friend-Mariel Hemingway, his best friend and this friends Mistress (Diane Keaton) and wife.
But, as always, it's what Woody Allen makes of the situation that makes it a funny film. There is the book that his second wife, who has become a lesbian, has written about the break up of their marriage, the cheaper flat with strange noises and brown water, which he has to move to after walking out of his job, the walk through the planetarium with his friends mistress.
I liked the ending as well, with the 17 year old emerging as the only one of the characters to have a grain of common sense. The film is in black and white and the background music, George Gershwin tunes, fit in well. Critics have enthused about his evocation of New York city, so that's there if you like that sort of thing. The friend I saw the film with looked at the Manhattan sky at night, all skyscrapers and lights and said 'Isn't it ugly.'

If you like Woody Allen, don't miss this film.



6TH MAN.

Who is the smiling 6th man? And where does he fit into the picture (on the front cover)? Answers on a Post Card please.

All will be revealed in our next Issue!

EVER SO FREE ENTERPRISE

Here are the answers to our front cover Competition

NAME	OCCUPATION	PAYMASTER	FREE ENTERPRISE STAR RATING
1. Alan D'Arcy FEARN	Hyde's Demon Dentist (when not on strike against NHS).	National Health Service.	✪
2. John Law'n'Order KERSHAW	Police Committee Lecturer(part-time).	Tameside M.B.C. (A cut we can afford.)	◑
3. Willie WHITELAW	Short sharp shocks.	Her Majesty's Government.	○
4. Colin NoUnionsHere GRANTHAM	Economic Development (esp. his own). Purveyor of sub Post Offices.	Greater M/cr. Council.	✪✪
5. Phillip DAWSON	Property speculator.	Us.	✪✪✪✪✪

TAMESIDE EYE

NOW OUT EVERY TWO MONTHS

In its first 18 months Tameside Eye has come out 12 times, at irregular intervals. We have decided it will make life easier for everyone- our readers, the newsagents, our printers and us - if we come out regularly on the first Sat. of every other month. Next issue in the shops: Sat. 5th APRIL.

We Need More EARS!

INFORMATION: If we are to continue printing the news behind the news, we need a constant stream of facts, figures, rumours and gossip from our readers. There are at least 2000 of you readers, so between you, you must have a lot at your finger tips. Why not pass it on? Either ring us on the hot line - 366 0382 or write to Tameside Eye, PO Box 30, Hyde, Ches. SK14 3 JL. And don't forget, if you have to be careful (we don't want you to lose your job either) we will not disclose our sources.
Any newsletters, circulars, reports, branch press releases are useful.

RESEARCH: With longer articles, we would often like to dig below the surface and do research. This takes time and patience. We have got the patience but as all of us work on the paper in any spare moments, time is what we lack. If you think you would have time for research, please get in touch.
CONTRIBUTIONS: Photos, cartoons, drawings, poems, short stories, articles, news items, are all welcome. Even if you do not want your name mentioned, please send your address & phone number, so we can get in touch with you to discuss what you send it.
SALES: Can you sell EYE ? Ring us one week before we come out if you can.

DISTRIBUTION and LAYOUT: Help is always needed to paste the paper up, and to take it round to the Newsagents.

UNLESS CASH CAN BE FOUND IN THE NEXT FORTNIGHT, YET ANOTHER ARTS PROJECT MAY HAVE TO STOP ITS ACTIVITIES, AND THIS WILL AFFECT PATIENTS IN TAMESIDE HOSPITAL.

SHAPE

Wanted -Artists and Performers who enjoy a challenge!

NORTH WEST SHAPE, a charitable arts project which provides a wide range of artistic activities and entertainments in places likehospitals or prisons is facing a financial crisis which threatens the programme of events they have planned over the next few months, despite the support of the charitable Carnegie Foundation. Established only 11 months ago, NW Shape has mounted an impressive number of activities, employing professional artists and entertainers. These include a puppet festival at a large childrens hospital in M/cr, a folk song concert in a hostel for homeless men, dance and drama courses for hospital patients and women prisoners and paining and weaving classes for the elderly. In addition, Shape has compiled a registry of over 500 professional artists and entertainers who are prepared to work in this specialist field.

NORTH WEST SHAPE is now in the process of organising in conjunction with regional stroke clubs and staff at Withington Hospital a Craft Fair for the disabled, planned to take place at the hospital on March 8th.
This fair will go ahead regardless, but other ideas for future work are increasingly likely to end in the waste paper basket. One of these is a scheme for the Psychiatric Unit at Ashton General to have a full time drama therapist. The hospital administrators say they can only find £1.60 (the rate for an Occupational Therapy Aide) per hour to pay a therapist. This is considered too low to attract someone with the ri experience, and whilst th discussions have been going on, Ashton General has lost the opportunity of a free 3 month trial period, with the Therapists wages paid for by SHAPE.
If you would like further information about the project or feel you can assist the financial appeal please contact Hazel Roy, NW Shape, 12 Harter St. M/cr M1 6HY.

dalkon danger !

100,000 women in Britain were fitted with a Dalkon Shield - an inter uterine contraceptive device, between 1971 and 1975.
This I.U.D. is an American product which was first marketed in '71 and within months adverse reactions poured in from doctors and clinics all over the States. There were found to be many side effects including pelvic inflammatory disease, septicemia, pregnancies with spontaneous abortions, ectopic (tubal) pregnancies and perforations of the uterus.

By 1974 there were 17 deaths clearly attributable to the shield.
Despite, and perhaps because of, all these adverse report. the manufacturer, A.H. Robins, decided to expand their export side of the business. This included selling the shield in bulk in sterilised packages to third world countries and also included the 100,000 sales in Britain.
The shield was withdrawn in British family planning clinics in '75, but many women have suffered and perhaps are still suffering from ill-effects.

One Tameside woman had a Dalkon shield fitted in '73 and when it was removed 15 months later a smear test showed up atypical cells. She continued to have smear tests every 3 months until eventually she had a hysterectomy in June 1979.
A British Dalkon Shield Assoc. has been formed by women who have experienced problems with the Shield, and indeed any IUD. British women are able to take legal action in America on a pay-if-you-win basis, the Lawyer takes a % if you win and nothing if you loose. The Association can be contacted c/o Anita Bennett 16B Elvaston Place London SW7,

Job freeze

Since it was set up, the new-fangled 'Manpower' sub-committee of the council has only met twice. Trouble is brewing already.

Chief personnel officer, Metcalf, is destined for a head-on collision with Town Hall Unions. Personnels latest suggestion to the committee is the time-worn one of not filling vacancies. They think the council could save £700,000 by this method, which would also give Metcalf a lot of control over which, if any, vacancies were filled.

This policy, albeit unofficially, is already in operation: Building Services have admitted they are permanently well under full staff quota; Hattersley Community Centre has not had a Manager for months, there's been no second-in-command at Social Services for some time.

(If you know of any un-filled vacancies, why not write in and tell us, so we can tell everyone?)

dole

A Denton councillor has just had the misfortune to join the ranks of the unemployed for the second time in 12 months.
Dennis Fogg (Lab) was the Manager of his friend Bill Owen's decorating firm, Owen Cooper of Ashton, but now finds himself looking for work. Less than a year ago Dennis accepted Voluntary redundancy at WCB Containers Ltd. Judging by their planning applications (they are busily expanding at the moment) Dennis must be wondering why he ever parted company with them.
At least he can always sign on the dole. But will he get any giros. For, fellow Labour party member Owen is rumoured to have a habit of doing his ex-employees a dirty trick. After they have signed on, the dole office send Owen (the employer) a form to fill in. Owen has in the past returned this form with sufficient damning (but inaccurate) information to make sure they don't get any dole money, under the six week rule.

Dennis must by now be regretting lashing out on a Christmas holidayin the states.

going rate

How much will next year's rates go up by? (All answers on a post card to..) As we go to press, the Labour group of Councillors are agonising over this very question. One thing is for certain: the rise will be more than 20%

The million pound question is how much more ?

Labour are split into two camps. The Hawks, who are in the minority, want it to be as high as possible. They argue that people want the services the council provide and therefore must be prepared to pay for it.

The Doves say any rise above the 20% mark will be electoral suicide- and they are, at present, likely to win the argument. This is because they have the Heseltine problem on their side.

The Tory Local Govt. minister is threatening to take away from councils any 'excess' rates that they raise next year. This 'excess' is to be determined by Whitehall Treasury paper-shufflers.

In that case, the Hawkss, say all the more reason to go for a larger increase. If Heseltine takes it off the Borough, at least Labour will be able to say they have tried to save the Borough from massive cuts and job losses.

Anyway, if the Doves want to lose the election, why not simply let McEnaney, Booth and Co. try banning Monty Python's latest film 'Life of Brian.'

mc.enaney

Cllr. Patrick McEnaney (Lab) J.P. is, at this rate, soon going to have to be looking for new sponsors in May, when he stands for re-election. His appeal againstthe decision not to let him stand has now been through Branch, District, Constituency and Regional Labour Party procedures. He's won some, but lost even more, and is - apparently - still trying to get himself selected. EYE understands he has even obtained the full backing of a 'block' religious vote.

stand-by

Caretakers in Tameside's Housing Dept. are currently fighting for parity with the Boroughts fitters and gritters. They want the same stand-by arrangements as other council employees.

The caretakers are angry because there has been no improvement in their stand-by agreement since 1970. At present they get £2.50 every alternate week for being on call seven nights a week. They talk of their social lives in tatters, as a result of being on stand by.

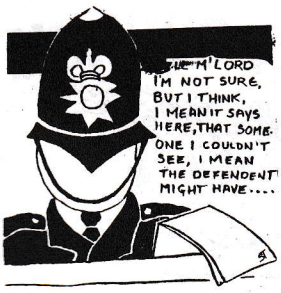
Meanwhile, fitters and gritters get £26 per week for being ready to go out on emergency jobs - £2 per night and £8 per day at the week end.

The council are arguing that the caretakers have different jobs so there is no comparison. The point being missed is that the effect of stand-by is the same whatever your job.

sad

Fans of Cllr. John Ledger will be sad to hear of his decision not to seek re-election to the council. Stating that this is for 'personal reasons' he has of course quashed any rumours that it has anything to do with a tiff with his Ward Chairman.

FREE SPEE shhh!



Following the large fines (£422 total) dished out by Ashton Magistrates to Dave Hallsworth and John Tummon for holding a public meeting at Ashton shopping precinct, a new campaign for free speech and against racism has been launched.
Tameside Trades Council and Tameside Campaign against Racism and Fascism (CARF) have openend a fund to help pay off the fines and help the campaings finances.
All donations should be sent to Bert Ellicott, c/o AUEW Bldgs, Margaret St.Sth, Ashton.
all cheques/PO's to be payable to 'Tameside Defence Fund.'

At the Town Hall speeches will be made, and CARF hope that local trade union celebrity Colin Barnet will be amongst the free speakers.
The whole of the proceedings will be video recorded so any garrassment and/or arrests will be open to independent scrutiny later.

DEMO

In addition, there is a demonstration in Ashton to re-affirm the right to hold public meetings and to continue the opposition to the Immigration Laws and the harrassment of black people.
(Gias Uddin, a Bangladeshi lad from Mossley now deported).

Assemble West End Park (opp. police station, M/cr Rd. Ashton) Sat. 23rd Feb. Time: 1pm. March: to Ashton Town Hall.

Conference on Ireland
Sat. 1st March 10·30-4·00
West End Centre 50p

Organized by Tameside Trades Council
Tickets from Dave Hallsworth
186 Kings Road Ashton-u-Lyne.

STAND AND DELIVER

Featuring Burning Deck a Liverpool based satirical group using a mixture of poetry and country & western style music, Dog & Partridge, Brook St. Fri.15 Feb. 8.30 p.m.

GRASS ROOTS BOOKS

1 newton street
piccadilly, manchester
m1 1hw tel 061-236 3112

NEW FEMINIST BOOKS

VIRAGO		
The Lost Traveller	Antonia White	£2.25
The Sugar House	Antonia White	£1.95
Beyond the Glass	Antonia White	£2.25
A Pin to see the Peepshow	F. Terryson Jesse	£2.50
The Lacquer Lady	F. Terryson Jesse	£2.50
WOMEN'S PRESS		
The High Cost of Living	Marge Piercy	£2.25
Women on Edge of Time	Marge Piercy	£1.95
SPHERE		
The Women's Room	Marilyn French	£1.50
HAMLYN		
Fat is a Feminist Issue	Suzie Orbach	85p

MANCHESTER'S ALTERNATIVE BOOKSHOP
Vast range of Books including politics, sexual politics, fiction, education, childrens books, arts, maps and reduced price books

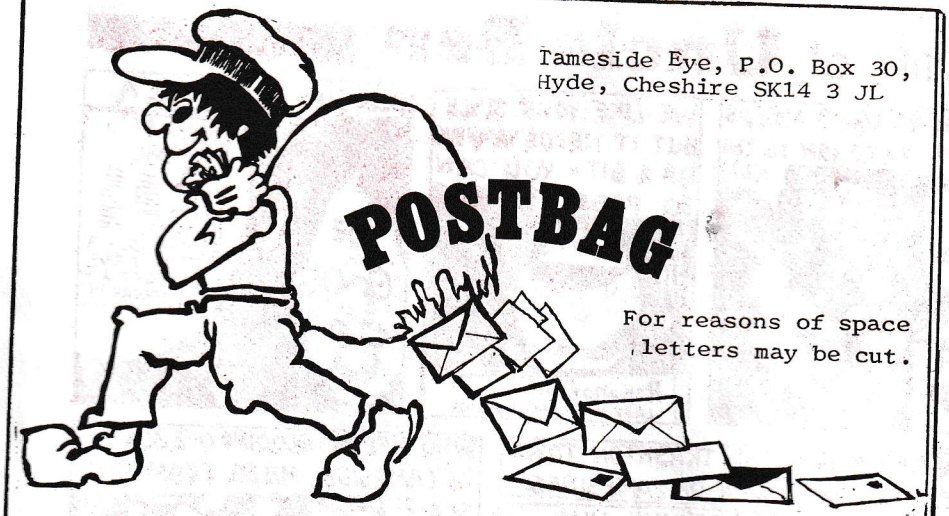
ABORTION Advice?

TELEPHONE

Suite F
57 Hilton Street
Manchester M1 2EJ
061-236 7777
24 hour answering service

BPAS Charitable Trust.
for Pregnancy Testing, Abortion and Sterilisations
Operations arranged after medical consultation at our own non-profit clinics.

Tameside Eye, P.O. Box 30,
Hyde, Cheshire SK14 3 JL



For reasons of space letters may be cut.

A representative of Tameside National Abortion Campaign and a representative of the Tameside Trades Union Council were invited to visit the Chairwoman of the Tameside Area Health Authority on 7th January 1980 at the AHA offices in Hyde. The Chairwoman - Lady Kenyon- was supported by the Community Health Physician and the Deputy Administrator. The purpose of the visit was to make representations regarding the resumption of the menstrual aspiration clinic at Tameside hospital previously provided by Mr. Goldthorpe a consultant gynaecologist.

It had been suggested that a sum of money in the region of £5000 annually would be required to put the clinic on a proper administrative footing following the whereby the Greater Manchester police had intervened and reported Mr. Goldthorpe to the Director of Public prosecutions for contravening (allegedly) the Abortion Law. The Director had found nothing amiss when he investigated.
Lady Kenyon was most gracious to the delegation in the grand manner of the old time gentry condescending to meet 'the servants'. However, her understanding of the intracacies of menstrual extraction and its meaning to the patient was woefully ignorant. However, she was certain that Mr. Goldthorpe had resumed his lunchtime sessions and that publicity for it was to be depracated.

On one thing Lady Kenyon was quite emphatic.
There was no way the AHA could find the money for a clinic to be properly manned in the next financial year starting 1st April '80. There was only a sum of some £500,000 available for all sorts of miscenllaneous expenditure and the claims for that were already in excess of £50,000. However proceeds from a lottery or some such like scheme were not ruled out!!
We argued that menstrual extraction on a day care basis would actually save the AHA money since abortions carried out will full operative procedures and inpatient care required a lot more expenditure. The deputy administrator agreed with this concept but they could not force the consultants to carry out such procedures if they did not wish to do so. Again and again we were reminded that the consultants were a law unto themselves - as if we didn't know!
But, here in Tameside we had the singular good fortune to have a consultant gynaecologist who, in the recent past, had been both able and willing to carry out this menstrual extraction procedure in his own time by making special arrangements with cooperative G.P.'S. Why couldn't the Health Authority help him fulfil his personal commitment by making available such a small sum of money (compared with theiroverall budget) to cover the administrative costs ? To that we received a lot of waffling replies such as lack of finance, they were not certain he wanted money, they did not know how much it would cost All in all a very frustrating visit. It is now up to the woman and trade unionists in Tameside to make the Health Authority aware of their intention not to tolerate this kind of stalling on so vital, important and helpful a procedure.
The only way to budge the Health Authority is by pressure, so come on!
More information from Tameside National Abortion Campaign, Secretary Mrs. M. Dale, 73 Callington Walk, Hattersley, Hyde SK14 3EN Tel: 368 6741.

corrie on

The third reading of John Corrie's Abortion Ammendment Act will be heard on Feb 8th. It is estimated that the new provisions would cut by two thirds the number of women eligible for legal abortion as well as causing prices to soar by destroying the charity sector which performs more than 50% of abortions.

It is highly likely that this Bill will eventually be passed. The National Abortion Campaign and the T.U.C. are joining together for a lobby of Parliament on Feb. 5th Coaches to the lobby will leave from St. Peter's Sq. Manchester at 8.30.
Tickets £3.50 for waged and students, £1. for claimants.

On the actual day of the reading there will be an assembly of women at the Central Hall Westminster at 2 p.m. Contact Linda at 224 4392 for further details. There will be a North West demonstration for abortion rights in Manchester on Feb. 2nd. (Assemble at 1.30 on Oxford Rd., Mancunian way)

the secret life of **Uncle Ben**

LAST ISSUE SUPER BEN LAMESIDES ONLY COSTUMED HERO WAS SUMMONED TO THE ADRAGGER OFFICES IN TRASHTON

THE ADRAGGER NEEDS TO GET THROUGH TO THE KIDS

ADRAGGER 65000 — NO. OF COPIES PRINTED — NO OF COPIES DELIVERED — AUG NOV JAN

ADRAGGER

Uncle Ben

WE LIKE YOUR STYLE BUT IT NEEDS VAMPING UP A BIT - YOU CAN DO PAGE 3

Ripsnorter LAST WITH LOCAL NEWS

BEN LIKED THE IDE A

SUPER BEN'S PAGE

HERES A PORTRAIT FOR YOU TO COLOUR IN

AND WE WANT YOU TO DELIVER IT!

GULP!

.....MEANWHILE BACK AT TRASHTON TOWN HALL, EARNIE DIM LEADER OF LAMESIDES COUNCIL IS IN A RAGE

WHY HIM INSTEAD OF ME?

NEW YEARS HONOURS LIST

JACK GETTIT BEM

WHO NEEDS BLOODY LIFEBOATS IN LAMESIDE, MILES FROM THE SEA ?

DIM DECIDES HE WANTS A MEDAL

BUT HOW CAN HE GET ONE?

RUSSIAN GAMES THREAT

CLANG

HE CALLS CONTROL ON HIS NEW LAMESIDE PERSONNEL RADIO

TELEGRAM BEN NOW

LAMESIDE PERSONAL PERSONNEL RADIO

5 DAYS LATER.....

TELEGRAM SIR

ADRAGGER

SHINE

BEN WE WILL STAGE OLYMPICS IN LAMESIDE FIND VENUES CLLR DIM

AT LAST LAMESIDE WILL BE PUT ON THE MAP. SUPER BEN MAKES PLANS FOR THE OLYMPICS.....

OLYMPIC STOOL PIGEON SHOOTING

WITH LIVE TARGETS AT BUCKTON QUARRY

SNATCHER DIVERTS OLYMPICS TO LAMESIDE

CRACKS IN COPOUT BATHS WILL BE MENDED

PIANO SMASHING AT OLD PEOPLES CENTRES

M67 CYCLE RACE

HOT AIR BALLOONING FROM TOWN HALL

POT-HOLING ON MANCHESTER ROAD

JAVALIN THROWING OVER NEW CIVIC COMPLEX

FLOPPY DISCUS THROWING AT NEW LAMESIDE COMPUTER TERMINAL

M66

Carriages Motel

Rollande's Drive In.

OLYMPIC VILLAGE AT CARRIAGES NEW MOTEL